

E-Teacher Scholarship Program:

Critical Thinking in the EFL (English as a Foreign Language) Curriculum

Offered by the University of Oregon, Linguistics/American English Institute

The Office of English Language Programs of the U.S. State Department is offering an online teacher training course on “Teaching Critical Thinking” for eligible candidates. The course will introduce the most recent English language teaching methods and techniques, offer the opportunity to engage in an innovative distance-learning program that employs the latest in modern technology, and provide direct access to U.S. experts with whom participants might not normally have the opportunity to interact.

Course Description

This course is designed to deepen participants’ understanding of the theory and applied use of Critical Thinking principles and practices in the EFL classroom by engaging in the following types of activities: (1) read and discuss professional information and articles to develop a deeper understanding of current topics in language pedagogy as they relate to general critical thinking skills, (2) identify, evaluate, and select web-based materials and tools for use in the classroom, (3) interact with colleagues regionally and internationally who share similar pedagogical interests, (4) create classroom materials and projects that demonstrate an understanding of course topics, and (5) adapt and enhance existing materials so that they are culturally and age appropriate for their schools’ local curriculum. This 10-week course will be offered in both the fall of 2009 and the spring of 2010.

Requirements

Candidates should be highly motivated teachers, teacher trainers or ministry officials who are both dedicated to their own professional development and willing to share their knowledge with colleagues. They should be able to do academic work at a U.S. university (an advanced level of reading and writing, roughly equivalent to a TOEFL score of 525) and understand technical terms in English relating to computers and the Internet. Candidates should also have regular access to the Internet, be able to navigate in Windows and create a Word document, be familiar with the Internet and web browsers, and be able to type in English well enough to perform on-line tasks in real-time and to submit written assignments in a timely manner.

Candidates will be nominated by American embassies and selected in a competitive process. Interested candidates should contact the Regional English Language Officer or Cultural Affairs Officer at the nearest American embassy.